

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS REACTION TO ECEVIT'S CYPRUS VISIT

REF NICOSIA 017 AND 044

1. TURKISH PRESS HAS GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE TO CYPRUS VISIT OF REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY LEADER BULENT ECEVIT, WITH EMPHASIS ON HIS REMARKS IN FAMAGUSTA JANUARY 2 AND NICOSIA JANUARY 3 (REFTELS). PRO-ECEVIT PAPERS HAVE GIVEN GREATEST PLAY TO VISIT. PARTICULAR ATTENTION WAS GIVEN HIS STATEMENTS THAT THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE ISLAND "HAS BEEN WRITTEN ON THE CYPRIOT SOIL," AND HIS REMARKS ON PLIGHT OF TURKISH CYPRITOS ON THE SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS, AND REGARDING NEED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE TURKISH-HELD AREAS.

2. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

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A. AMONG OTHER PAPERS, PORMINENT DAILY MILLIYET, UNDER SUB-

HEADLINE "THE STATUS OF CYPRUS WAS WRITTEN IN THE SOIL BY THE PEACE OPERATION. THERE IS NO RETURN FROM THIS POINT,Z QUOTED ECEVIT AS SAYING IN HIS ARRIVAL SPEECH AT FAMAGUSTAA: "TODAY CYPRUS HAS ACHIEVED A STATUS. THIS STATUS CANNOT BE CHANGED. WE HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN ON CYPRIOT SOIL THE FUTURE STATUS OF CYPRUS...THIS STATUS IS WRITTEN ON THE SYPRUS SOIL WITH THE BLOOD OF ARTYRS, AS HISTORY IS WRITTEN. THIS WRITING WILL NEVER

BE ERASED FROM THESE LANDS AGAIN. THERE WILL BE NO RETURN FROM THE POINT REACHED WITH TWO PEACE OPERATIONS. WHAT IS WRITTEN WITH MARTY'S BLOOD IN CYPRUS WILL NEVER CHANGE AGAIN..."

B. IN REFERENCE TO THE TURKS ON THE SOVERIGN BASE AREAS, ECEVIT WAS WIDELY QUOTED BY THE PRESS AS SAYING: "NEITHER WILL THE PEACE OPERATION HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BEFORE THE TURKS ON THE BRITISH BASES ATTAIN THEIR FREEDOM...KEEPING THE TURKS AS SLAVES LIKE THIS ON THE BASES IS UNSEEN ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD... NO PROBLEM BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES WILL BE SOLVED BEFORE THE TURKISH CYPRIOT ATTAINS FULL FREEDOM..."

CM PRESS ALSO REPORTED ECEVIT'S REMARKS THAT THE NEW FIGHT FACING THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY WAS THE FIGHT FOR ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND THAT THE MARK OF VICTORY WOULD COME WHEN THEY NO LONGER NEEDED ASSISTANCE FROM THE MAINLAND.

3. MEANWHILE, ECEVIT'S VISIT TO ISLAND HAS AROUSED CRITICISM AT HOME. NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY CHAIRMAN NECMETTIN ERBAKAN, IN CRITICIZING THE TRIP, SAID HISTORY WOULD VINDICATE THE ROLE PLAYED BY HIS PARTY DURING THE MILITARY OPERATIONS, IN CONTRAST TO ECEVIT'S POSITION, AND SAID, "ECEVIT HAS NO RIGHT TO EXPLOIT CYPRUS." ALSO, MEMBERS OF THE JUSTICE PARTY HAVE BEEN STRONGLY CRITICAL OF VISIT. AHMET BULDANLI, JP DEPUTY FOR MUGLA, QUESTIONED IN PARLIAMENT THE REPORTED PROVISION OF TWO DESTROYERS TO ESCORT ECEVIT TO CYPRUS. JP SECGEN NAHIT MENTESE, IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS, SAID THE RPP DID NOT WANT TO SVE CYPRUS BUT WANTED TO USE IT AS A STEPPING STONE. "ECEVIT WANTS TO MAKE A NATIONAL CUSE SUCH AS CYPRUS HIS OWN PRIVATE CAUSE."

4. COMMENT: STRONG CRITICISM OF ECEVIT'S VISIT BY OTHER PARTIES UNDERSCORES DOMESTIC POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TRIP, WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEEMS TO HAVE REINFORCED THE PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION OF ECEVIT WITH THE CYPRUS ISSE, ONE OF HIS STRONGEST POLITICAL ASSETS.
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